



Nevada Department of Agriculture

Director, Don Henderson

Activities & Achievement Report

March, 2005

Administration

- Linda Lesi completed moving from the Gomez Facility to the Capitol Hill office. This is part of a larger move to better utilize space in the two buildings. The Department has grown due to new programs and is squeezing more staff in existing space.
- Doug Perry, Margi Scheid and Rick Gimlin conducted interviews for the Management Analyst 1 position. The successful candidate will provide much needed grant coordination and reporting functions. The Department hopes to have the new person on board before March.
- The Department welcomes Linda Mowatt, she joined us on the 7th, and will be responsible for deposits, accounts receivable functions and related duties in Fiscal Services.
- The Department welcomes Sandie Foley, she joined us on the 28th, and will be responsible for a variety of functions; including issuing animal health permits, supervising the reception position, taking care of the Board of Agriculture, providing secretarial support to the Director and Deputy Director and related duties.

Veterinary Science

- Dr. Forbes and Tom Smigel represented the NDOA at the Clark County Emergency Management tabletop exercise, Rotunda Thunda 2005, at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Feb.23. Also in attendance was Dr. Scott Beutelschies from USDA-APHIS-VS. Over 120 people, representing numerous county, state, and federal agencies, participated in this exercise. Dr. Forbes also attended 2 planning meetings for the

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State of Nevada "Legal Preparedness" Tabletop Exercise scheduled for May 6 in Mesquite, Nevada.

- Drs. Crowell, Forbes, Rink and Thain attended the Western Livestock Health Association meeting held at John Asguaga's Nugget on Feb. 23 and 24.
- During February 3-4, 2005, Dr. Dan Crowell attended Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) training at the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA. EIA is a viral disease of horses which is spread by horseflies. The training covered the epidemiology, the study of the incidence and spread of diseases, of EIA as well as hands on work in the laboratory with the current available tests for EIA. The Nevada Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in Elko, NV conducts approximately 1000 EIA tests annually.
- During the week of February 14-18, 2005, Dr. Dan Crowell attended the Basic Brucellosis Epidemiology course conducted by the USDA in Davis, CA. The course covered the unique disease processes and animal immunological responses to Brucellosis, a disease causing abortion in cattle. Testing procedures and interpretation as well as disease investigation were also covered. Brucellosis has been nearly eradicated from the US with the exception of the Greater Yellowstone Area, where the elk and buffalo population serve as reservoirs for the disease.
- Kimberly Priest and Dr. Anette Rink attended the 5th National West Nile Virus(WNV) Meeting in San Jose, CA on February 8th and 9th. The meeting was organized by Center for Disease Control and covered aspects of WNV epidemiology, surveillance, detection, prevention and disease.
- On February 25th Drs. Thain, Rink, Forbes and Crowell attended the 'Bighorn Sheep Scientific and Technical Roundtable' hosted by UNR and the US Forest Service. The meeting was held at the Reno Sparks Convention center. More than 80 people representing livestock producers, sportsmen's groups and wildlife biologists attended the meeting. Invited speakers included five members of the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Team, Drs. John Wehausen, Ben Gonzales, Tom Stephenson, Walter Boyce and Vern Bleich. All speakers covered different aspects of the recovery plan, such as risk assessment, genetic diversity, predator control, habitat fragmentation and management aspects of implementing a recovery plan. The Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep was emergency listed as an endangered species in 1999. Dr. Al Ward from the Caine Veterinary Teaching Center in Caldwell, Idaho presented a brief summary of his groundbreaking research in Pasteurella biotyping. Dr. Ward has pioneered this field and has been involved in more disease investigations of wildlife pneumonia than any other person in the field. Dr. Keith Aune, Director of Research for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks presented summary data on resource management and disease data for the 49 Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep herds. Dr. Craig Beattie from UNR gave a brief overview over the Nevada Big Horn Sheep project. The morning session revolved around published and up to date research about disease transmission between Bighorn Sheep and domestic sheep.

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The purpose of the afternoon session was to evaluate published and new data on genetic relatedness of Bighorn Sheep in adjacent geographical regions. During the morning session Dr. Anette Rink presented a summary of the 'Pasteurella Project' a collaborative research project between the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the University of Nevada Reno and the Nevada Department of Agriculture, and some recent findings about genetic relationships between Desert Bighorn Sheep and California Bighorn Sheep in Nevada and a Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep ram.

- **Plant Industry, Las Vegas Office (Southern Nevada)**
- Our new receptionist is Marissa Bradford. She previously worked at Signature Flight Support/McCarran Airport. She is fluent in Spanish which is a great benefit to the Department.
- **Imported fire ants** All vehicles assigned to this survey activity have been serviced and needed repairs done. All but one of last years summer surveyors will be returning.
- **Agricultural Enforcement** Xenia Duranovic inspected 22 nursery shipments this month.
- **Pest Control Licensing** As of the end of February, 22 of 300 southern companies and 17 of 110 Northern Nevada companies have not renewed their licenses for 2005. Cease and desist operation letters were sent to the 39 companies that have not yet renewed. Their licenses expired on 12/31/2004.
- Inspections: Scott Cichowlaz and Shirlene Wayland conducted 9 Pesticide Use Inspections and 8 Pesticide Record Audits. 7 Interview Notices were issued for administrative violations. One un-licensed pest control company case was referred to Reno for enforcement.
- **Nursery Licensing/Inspection** Note: when Department Agriculturists inspect nurseries they look for a wide variety of items regulated by the Department - much more than plants.
- Marv Berson completed 19 nursery inspections and 29 truck inspections. He also completed one state phytosanitary inspection for export to California. One EPA Market Place inspection with a product sample was conducted at a pet store, also.
- Monrovia Nursery from California was confirmed to have Sudden Oak Death (SOD) at one of their sites. The same nursery site that was confirmed to have SOD last year. Out of 339 nurseries that received stock from this nursery three locations were in Nevada, one in Reno, two in Las Vegas. Marc Olson via Peggy McKie and Dr. Shouhua Wang immediately quarantined and red tagged the two locations in Las Vegas. Samples from both locations have been sent to Reno for testing for Phytophthora ramorum the causal agent.

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- Marc Olson conducted four nursery inspections. At one location 3 fertilizers were not state registered. These were referred to Reno for registration. 25 lbs of grass seed was returned to origin due to expiration dates for germination. EPA pesticide market place inspections were conducted at three of these nurseries with product samples collected at each location.
- Xenia Duranovic rejected a truckload of Cycas revolutas from Florida for presence of scale (presumed to be Asian cycas scale). Samples of infested plants were sent to the State Entomologist for identification. Four large specimen trees were retained and held for treatment at the nursery and the remainder of the shipment was shipped back to origin. The treatment was effective, and the plants on hold were released.
- **Training** Marv Berson and Tom Smigel attended a USDA Post entry Training class in Reno. This Federal State Cooperative Program enables certain low risk plant cultivars to be imported into the United States, held for a two year inspection period and if no problems are encountered, federally released for sale/propagation.
- **Pesticides** Scott Cichowlaz sent out a letter to all Licensed Pesticide Dealers announcing and describing the newly designed 2005 Restricted-Use Pesticide (RUP) Certification cards. He also updated the RUP certification database.
- We have had a good response to our annual pesticide disposal program in Las Vegas. Thirty-one sources contributed approximately 650 lbs of dry and 175 gallons of liquid unwanted pesticides to the Department.
- **Safety** Scott Cichowlaz and Linda Lesi finalized the 2004 Departmental Safety Report for Risk Management. The report was forwarded to Department Administrators for approval and signing.
- **Produce Inspections** 46 Produce Inspection Certificates were issued in February accruing \$690 in State revenue. Inspections are increasing because California is requiring daily inspection and certification of product that enter California.
- **Federal / State Poultry Products Inspection Program** 4,900 cases of eggs (30 dozen eggs/case) were U.S.D.A. graded from Jan.30/05 to Feb.26/05, accruing \$2,282 in revenue.
- **Other Items** Tom Smigel and Xenia Duranovic attended the State Transportation Agencies Co-ordination Meeting at the Nevada Highway Patrol Southern Command Office. Xenia informed the group of the kinds of inspections the Department conducts and also of her multilingual abilities, should they ever need translation assistance. Tom gave an overview of the Restricted Fertilizer program.

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- **Weights & Measures**

Division of Measurement Standards

- Administrator is tracking legislation concerning agency and attending hearings.
- The Director and Administrator met with petroleum industry representatives concerning the Division and industry future plans for weights and measures.

Bureau of Weights and Measures

- David Walch is filling in for the Southern regional manager as needed.
- Equipment problems have delayed the propane inspection program; the problem should be resolved mid-March.
- Statewide inspections are on schedule

Bureau of Petroleum Technology

- Construction of the petroleum lab is nearing completion; except for equipment move-in construction should be complete mid March.

Livestock I.D. & Agricultural Enforcement Division

- Ag Enforcement Lt. Dennis Journigan attended the California Rural Crime Task Force quarterly meeting in Shell Beach, California. Discussions and training on various types of crime that are increasingly moving out of the cities to rural areas and across state lines were held during the two-day meeting.
- Jim Connelley, along with the Director and other Department of Agriculture Administrators attended the Natural Resources Committee meeting of the Nevada legislature in Carson City.
- Administrator Connelley participated in an interactive training session via conference call and computer for the Northwest Pilot Project of the USDA National Animal Identification System. Brand Department administrators, State Veterinarians and producers from 6 states participated.
- Jim Connelley, Gary McCuin and Dr. Thain participated in the Nevada Cattlemen's Association Board of Directors meeting in Fallon, Nevada. Committee reports and issues coming before the legislature were discussed in an attempt to reach consensus. Jim Connelley attended the annual Fallon Bull Sale the following morning.

Agriculture Enforcement statistics for December, 2004

<u>Monthly Totals</u>	<u>#Vehicle stops</u>	<u>Warning citations</u>	<u>Court citations</u>	<u>Verbal warnings</u>	<u>Hold orders</u>	<u>Strays returned</u>	<u>Checksite Attendance</u>
	107	2	0	1	0	0	0